

SERVICES FOR GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

I. LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Section 103(b)(1)(2)(3)(4)(5); 34 CFR 361.55; 34 CFR 361.72; 34 CFR 361.73; 34 CFR 361.75.

II. POLICY STATEMENT AND PURPOSE:

Vocational Rehabilitation services may be provided to benefit groups of individuals with disabilities when such services are expected to contribute substantially to the vocational rehabilitation outcome of a group of individuals. The services need not be related to the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) of any individual with a disability.

III. DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:

Services may include:

- 1) Management or supervision services, initial supplies, equipment, or vending facilities, in support of small businesses operated by individuals with the most significant disabilities;
- 2) The establishment, development, or improvement of community rehabilitation programs including, under special circumstances, the construction of a facility which promises to contribute substantially to competitive employment outcomes in integrated settings for individuals with disabilities.
- 3) The use of existing telecommunications systems which have the potential to substantially improve service delivery methods and programs which meet the employment related needs of groups of individuals with disabilities.
- 4) The use of services and equipment for providing recorder materials for individuals who are blind or captioned films or cassettes for individuals who are deaf.
- 5) Technical assistance and support services to businesses that are not subject to Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act when such businesses seek to employ individuals with disabilities.

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

1. When assistance is provided to community rehabilitation programs, they must meet minimum standards as described in Section 115.25; and

2. A cooperative agreement must be developed which includes:
  - a. A description of the community rehabilitation program, the staff who will provide services, and the services to be provided.
  - b. Estimates of the number of individuals with disabilities to be served.
  - c. Estimates of the number of ORS clients in proportion to the overall number of individuals to be served.
  - d. A description of the probable length of service for individuals in the group.
  - e. A description of the total cost of services and cost sharing plans.
  - f. A description of how these services will be available on a continuing basis for clientele of the state vocational rehabilitation agency.
  - g. A description of how the services specifically lead to integration and community-integrated employment.

**B. Accountability**

To assure accountability when assistance is provided under this authority, a written agreement describing the services to be provided and the outcomes expected should be developed and maintained by designated agency staff and a summary of activity reported in the appropriate State Plan amendment on an annual basis.

The DHS contract procedures will be followed in dispersing these funds, i.e., quarterly fiscal and programmatic reports.